

Mr. Speaker, on every one of these issues, look at what the President says tonight. In many cases it is misleading and false promises. It is a credibility gap that we are facing in terms of what he says he is going to do as opposed to what he actually does in these very troubled times.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: As we anticipate the President's State of the Union Address to Congress and the Nation this evening, come let us approach the Lord with praise and thanksgiving. With all humility, let us approach the Lord.

Come, Members of the House and Senate, all who work on Capitol Hill, all Americans, come. Let us join together in honest prayer for our President, George W. Bush, our country, and the world, which watches us with great expectations.

If, in themselves, the awesome tasks of leadership in our times, the great responsibility of homeland defense and efforts to end terrorism around the world do not humble us before the Lord, let us approach the Lord on an even deeper level of faith says the Psalmist.

Trusting in the Lord's continued goodness and guidance, let us approach the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.

As Americans, let us humbly praise God for all His blessings throughout our history. Let us thank God for our three branches of accountable government, our brave military forces and the common sense of people who desire a more perfect Union, and so establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and posterity.

Forever will we praise and thank You, O Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to announce that the practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

DESIGNATING MAJORITY MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 33) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 33

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Agriculture: Mr. Combest; Mr. Boehner; Mr. Pombo; Mr. Smith of Michigan; Mr. Everett; Mr. Lucas of Oklahoma; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Jenkins; Mr. Gutknecht; Mr. Ose; Mr. Hayes; Mr. Pickering; Mr. Johnson of Illinois; Mr. Osborne; Mr. Pence; Mr. Rehberg; Mr. Graves; Mr. Putnam; Mr. Janklow; Mr. Burns; Mr. Bonner; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. King of Iowa; Mr. Chocola; Mrs. Musgrave and Mr. Nunes.

Committee on Appropriations: Mr. Regula; Mr. Lewis of California; Mr. Rogers of Kentucky; Mr. Wolf; Mr. Kolbe; Mr. Walsh; Mr. Taylor of North Carolina; Mr. Hobson; Mr. Istook; Mr. Bonilla; Mr. Knollenberg; Mr. Kingston; Mr. Frelinghuysen; Mr. Wicker; Mr. Nethercutt; Mr. Cunningham; Mr. Tiahrt; Mr. Wamp; Mr. Latham; Mrs. Northup; Mr. Aderholt; Mrs. Emerson; Ms. Granger; Mr. Peterson of Pennsylvania; Mr. Goode; Mr. Doolittle; Mr. LaHood; Mr. Sweeney; Mr. Vitter; Mr. Sherwood; Mr. Weldon of Florida; Mr. Simpson; Mr. Culberson; Mr. Kirk and Mr. Crenshaw.

Committee on Armed Services: Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania; Mr. Hefley; Mr. Saxton; Mr. McHugh; Mr. Everett; Mr. Bartlett; Mr. McKeon; Mr. Thornberry; Mr. Hostettler; Mr. Jones of North Carolina; Mr. Ryun of Kansas; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Hayes; Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico; Mr. Calvert; Mr. Simmons; Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia; Mr. Schrock; Mr. Akin; Mr. Forbes; Mr. Miller of Florida; Mr. Wilson of South Carolina; Mr. LoBiondo; Mr. Cole; Mr. Bradley of New Hampshire; Mr. Bishop of Utah; Mr. Turner of Ohio; Mr. Kline; Mrs. Miller of Michigan; Mr. Gingrey; Mr. Rogers of Alabama and Mr. Franks of Arizona.

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Gutknecht; Mr. Thornberry; Mr. Ryun of Kansas; Mr. Toomey; Mr. Hastings of Washington; Mr. Schrock; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mr. Putnam; Mr. Tancred; Mr. Bonner; Mr. Franks of Arizona; Mr. Garrett; Mr. Barrett of South Carolina; Mr. McCotter; Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida and Mr. Hensarling.

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Mr. Petri; Mr. Ballenger; Mr. Hoekstra; Mr. McKeon; Mr. Castle; Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas; Mr. Greenwood; Mr. Souder; Mr. Norwood; Mr. Upton; Mr. Ehlers; Mr. DeMint; Mr. Isakson; Mrs. Biggert; Mr. Platts; Mr. Tiberi; Mr. Keller; Mr. Osborne; Mr. Wilson of South Carolina; Mr. Cole; Mr. Porter; Mr. Kline; Mr. Carter; Mrs. Musgrave and Mrs. Blackburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Mr. Bilirakis; Mr. Barton of Texas; Mr. Upton; Mr. Stearns; Mr. Gillmor; Mr. Greenwood; Mr. Cox; Mr. Deal of Georgia; Mr. Burr; Mr. Whitfield; Mr. Norwood; Mrs. Cubin; Mr. Shimkus; Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico; Mr. Shadegg; Mr. Pickering; Mr. Fossella; Mr. Blunt; Mr. Buyer; Mr. Radanovich; Mr. Bass; Mr. Pitts; Mrs. Bono; Mr. Walden of Oregon; Mr. Terry; Mr. Fletcher; Mr. Ferguson; Mr. Rogers of Michigan; Mr. Issa and Mr. Otter.

Committee on Financial Services: Mr. Leach; Mr. Bereuter; Mr. Baker; Mr. Bachus; Mr. Castle; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Royce; Mr. Lucas of Oklahoma; Mr. Ney; Mrs. Kelly; Mr. Paul; Mr. Gillmor; Mr. Ryun of Kansas; Mr. LaTourette; Mr. Manzullo; Mr. Jones of North Carolina; Mr. Ose; Mrs. Biggert; Mr. Green of Wisconsin; Mr. Toomey; Mr. Shays; Mr. Shadegg; Mr. Fossella; Mr. Gary Miller of California; Ms. Hart; Mrs. Capito; Mr. Tiberi; Mr. Kennedy of Minnesota; Mr. Feeney; Mr. Hensarling; Mr. Garrett; Mr. Murphy; Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida; Mr. Barrett of South Carolina; Ms. Harris and Mr. Renzi.

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. Burton; Mr. Shays; Ms. Ros-Lehtinen; Mr. McHugh; Mr. Mica; Mr. Souder; Mr. LaTourette; Mr. Ose; Mr. Lewis of Kentucky; Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia; Mr. Platts; Mr. Cannon; Mr. Putnam; Mr. Schrock; Mr. Duncan; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Deal of Georgia; Mrs. Miller of Michigan; Mr. Murphy; Mr. Turner of Ohio; Mr. Carter; Mr. Janklow; and Mrs. Blackburn.

Committee on International Relations: Mr. Leach; Mr. Bereuter; Mr. Smith of New Jersey; Mr. Burton of Indiana; Mr. Gallegly; Ms. Ros-Lehtinen; Mr. Ballenger; Mr. Rohrabacher; Mr. Royce; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Chabot; Mr. Houghton; Mr. McHugh; Mr. Tancred; Mr. Paul; Mr. Smith of Michigan; Mr. Pitts; Mr. Flake; Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia; Mr. Green of Wisconsin; Mr. Weller; Mr. Pence; Mr. McCotter; Mr. Janklow and Ms. Harris.

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. Hyde; Mr. Coble; Mr. Smith of Texas; Mr. Gallegly; Mr. Goodlatte; Mr. Chabot; Mr. Jenkins; Mr. Cannon; Mr. Bachus; Mr. Hostettler; Mr. Green of Wisconsin; Mr. Keller; Ms. Hart; Mr. Flake; Mr. Pence; Mr. Forbes; Mr. King of Iowa; Mr. Carter; Mr. Feeney and Mrs. Blackburn.

Committee on Resources: Mr. Young of Alaska; Mr. Tauzin; Mr. Saxton; Mr. Gallegly; Mr. Duncan; Mr. Hefley; Mr. Gilchrest; Mr. Calvert; Mr. McInnis; Mrs. Cubin; Mr. Radanovich; Mr. Jones of North Carolina; Mr. Cannon; Mr. Peterson of Pennsylvania; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Souder; Mr. Walden of Oregon; Mr. Tancred; Mr. Hayworth; Mr. Osborne; Mr. Flake; Mr. Rehberg; Mr. Renzi; Mr. Cole; Mr. Pearce; Mr. Bishop of Utah and Mr. Nunes.

Committee on Science: Mr. Smith of Texas; Mr. Shays; Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania; Mr. Rohrabacher; Mr. Barton of Texas; Mr. Calvert; Mr. Smith of Michigan; Mr. Bartlett of Maryland; Mr. Ehlers; Mr. Gutknecht; Mr. Nethercutt; Mr. Lucas of Oklahoma; Mrs. Biggert; Mr. Akin; Mr. Johnson of Illinois; Ms. Hart; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Forbes; Mr. Gingrey; Mr. Bishop of Utah; Mr. Burgess and Mr. Bonner.

Committee on Small Business: Mr. Combest; Mr. Bartlett of Maryland; Mrs. Kelly;

Mr. Chabot; Mr. Toomey; Mr. DeMint; Mr. Graves; Mr. Schrock; Mr. Akin; Mrs. Capito; Mr. Shuster; Mrs. Musgrave; Mr. Franks of Arizona; Mr. Gerlach; Mr. Bradley of New Hampshire and Mr. Beauprez.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Petri; Mr. Boehlert; Mr. Coble; Mr. Duncan; Mr. Gilchrest; Mr. Mica; Mr. Hoekstra; Mr. Quinn; Mr. Ehlers; Mr. Bachus; Mr. LaTourette; Mrs. Kelly; Mr. Baker; Mr. Ney; Mr. LoBiondo; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Gary Miller of California; Mr. DeMint; Mr. Bereuter; Mr. Isakson; Mr. Hayes; Mr. Simmons; Mrs. Capito; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mr. Johnson of Illinois; Mr. Rehberg; Mr. Platts; Mr. Graves; Mr. Kennedy of Minnesota; Mr. Shuster; Mr. Boozman; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Choccola; Mr. Beauprez; Mr. Burgess; Mr. Burns; Mr. Pearce; Mr. Gerlach; Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida and Mr. Porter.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Biliakakis; Mr. Everett; Mr. Buyer; Mr. Quinn; Mr. Stearns; Mr. Moran of Kansas; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Baker; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Brown of South Carolina; Mr. Miller of Florida; Mr. Boozman; Mr. Bradley of New Hampshire; Mr. Beauprez; Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida and Mr. Renzi.

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Crane; Mr. Shaw; Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut; Mr. Houghton; Mr. Herger; Mr. McCrery; Mr. Camp; Mr. Ramstad; Mr. Nussle; Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas; Ms. Dunn; Mr. Collins; Mr. Portman; Mr. English; Mr. Hayworth; Mr. Weller; Mr. Hulshof; Mr. McInnis; Mr. Lewis of Kentucky; Mr. Foley; Mr. Brady of Texas; Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin and Mr. Cantor.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING CLEAR THE RESOLVE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it was written long ago that without a vision, the people perish. Tonight, the President of the United States from this very Chamber will offer a vision of moral clarity and purpose and resolve for the American people and the world.

It will be resolve to see our war on terror through to its just conclusion and protect our people; it will be resolve against any rogue state who, through its weapons or associations, threatens our peace and security; it will be resolve to renew our economy during struggling recessionary times and resolve to renew our cities through a faith-based initiative; and it will be resolve to keep our promises to seniors in reforming and expanding Medicare.

The President will describe our challenges at home and abroad as clear; but this President, Mr. Speaker, will make the resolve of the American people to overcome these challenges clearer still.

WEAKENING TITLE IX NOT AN OPTION

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn any weakening of Title IX.

This week a national commission will vote on various proposals to reform Title IX for the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige. Since 1972, Title IX has made landmark strides to prohibit sex discrimination in education and to reverse discrimination against women in collegiate sports. However, under one proposal, women would be given only 43 percent of collegiate scholarships versus the 55 percent of enrollment in universities.

Critics of Title IX are saying that the law should be revised according to female interest. However, since its enactment, athletic participation by women in college has increased five times, despite the lack of resources devoted to make it an attractive thing to do.

Title IX has been a cornerstone for improvements for women not just in sports, but in key areas such as standardized testing, higher education and math and science employment. Until women are equal in all areas, weakening of Title IX should not be an option.

TRIBUTE TO MONIQUE BROWN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, just last week a beautiful young woman named Monique Brown died and went home to be with her Maker. Monique worked in my office as my legislative correspondent.

A month ago Monique was released from the hospital just in time to get married, giving her husband Christopher the opportunity to love her and care for her at home. He did so with amazing integrity and dedication. But then Monique returned to the hospital, where she fell into a coma and soon passed away.

Mr. Speaker, Monique was only 23 years old. She had a strong faith, and, though she wanted to live, the prospect of dying did not frighten her at all.

In Psalm 39 David wrote, "Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life."

"You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before You."

"But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in You."

Monique's hope was always in the Lord, but she does not need to hope anymore. She is now with her Lord.

SADDAM HUSSEIN, A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE WORLD

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, when we think of terrorism, we often limit our thoughts to just Afghanistan, but we must not forget the despicable role Iraq has played in supporting, training and harboring international terrorist organizations.

There are many reasons why Iraq is no friend to the free world. There are many reasons why Saddam Hussein poses a detrimental threat to the United States and the entire world.

It has been said time and time again that Iraq possesses chemical and biological weapons and that Saddam is ready and willing to use his arsenal against innocent civilians, even his own people. Just imagine what would happen if Saddam gave these weapons, capable of killing entire populations, to terrorists like the al Qaeda.

We cannot bury our heads in the sand and say, "Oh, he wouldn't do that." Saddam Hussein has lied to the words for over a decade and continues to defy the United Nations. He not only provides a safe harbor for terrorists, but provides them with state-of-the-art training camps. He cannot be trusted. He poses a serious threat to the United States, and he must be disarmed to protect the freedom and lives of Americans.

COMMENDING ANOTHER YEAR OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEADERSHIP

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has shown courageous leadership on many fronts since his last State of the Union Address a year ago.

In November, the President moved forward in the war on terrorism by securing a unanimous vote by the United Nations Security Council to force Saddam Hussein to disarm. Day by day, these inspectors uncover more evidence of Iraq's noncompliance and continued threat to Americans and our allies. As a result, President Bush is building a coalition to secure a regime change in Iraq. On this issue, the President is not just leading America, he is leading the freedom-loving world.

The President continues to work with our allies to capture al Qaeda terrorists wherever they may be hiding, and he has pushed for the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security.

I applaud the President for his leadership and inspiration to the American people, and I know tonight's State of the Union Address will send a message to the world that America is strong, united, determined and prepared to take on the challenges of 2003.